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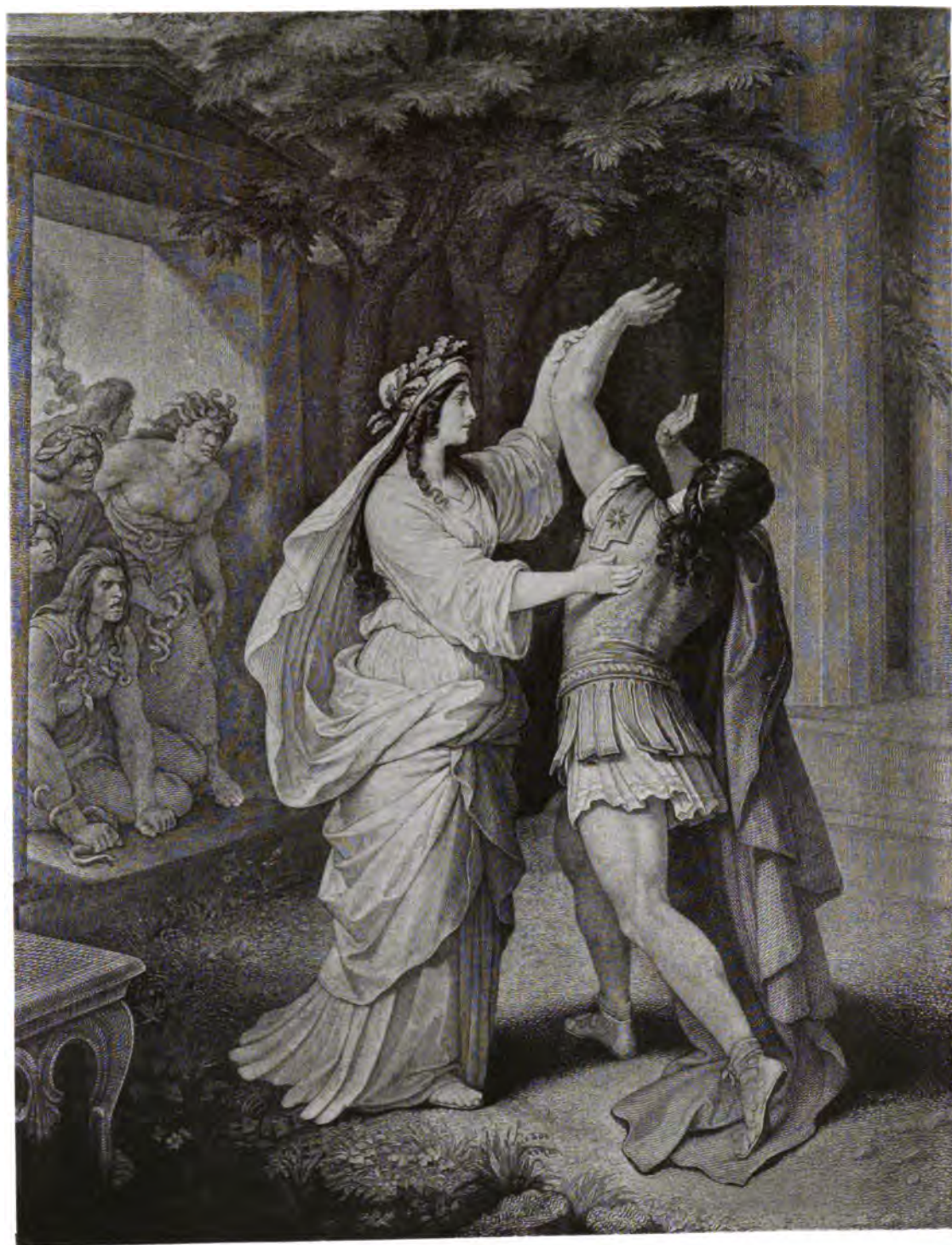
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GOETHE GALLERY

FROM THE ORIGINAL DRAWINGS OF WILHELM
VON KAULBACH

WITH EXPLANATORY TEXT



BOSTON
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GOETHE AND THE MUSE.



GOETHE, in his poem "Zueignung," describes his interview with the Goddess of Poetry on the top of a mountain, at early dawn.

The morning came : its footsteps scared away
The gentle sleep that hovered lightly o'er me.
I left my quiet cot to greet the day,
And gayly climbed the mountain-side before me.
The sweet young flowers, how fresh they were, and tender,
Brimful with dew upon the sparkling lea !
The young day opened in exulting splendor,
And all around seemed glad to gladden me.

And, as I mounted o'er the meadow-ground,
A white and filmy essence 'gan to hover :
It sailed and shifted till it hemmed me round ;
Then rose above my head, and floated over.
No more I saw the beauteous scene unfolded ;
It lay beneath a melancholy shroud :
And soon was I, as if in vapor moulded,
Alone, within the twilight of the cloud.

At once, as though the sun were struggling through,
Within the mist a sudden radiance started :
Here sank the vapor, but to rise anew ;
There, on the peak and upland forest, parted.



Oh, how I panted for the first clear gleaming
Made by the gloom it banished doubly bright !
It came not, but a glory round me beaming ;
And I stood blinded by the gush of light.

A moment, and I felt enforced to look,
By some strange impulse of the heart's emotion.
There, in the glorious clouds that seemed to bear her,
A form angelic hovered in the air :
Ne'er did my eyes behold a vision fairer ;
And still she gazed upon me, floating there.

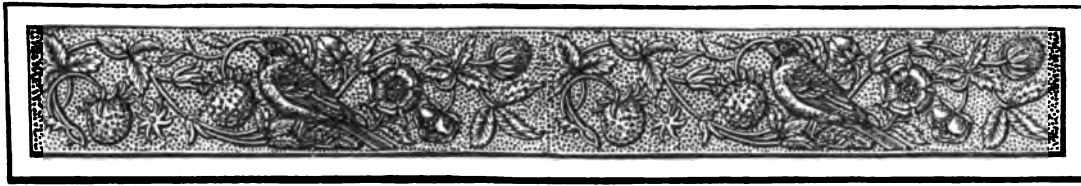
The poet sank on his knees, overpowered by this vision.

Straightway she stretched her hand among the thin
And watery haze that round her presence hovered :
Slowly it wilted, and shrank her grasp within ;
And lo ! the landscape once more lay uncovered :
Again mine eye could scan the sparkling meadow.
I looked to heaven, and all was clear and bright :
I saw her hold a veil without a shadow,
That undulated round her in the light.


The Goddess of Poetry endeavors to inspire Goethe with confidence in his own powers, and bestows upon him her gift, "the veil of song."

"I know thee : all thy weakness, all that yet
Of good within thee lives and glows, I've measured."
She said (her voice I never may forget),
"Accept the gift that long for thee was treasured.
Oh ! happy he, thrice blest in earth and heaven,
Who takes this gift with soul serene and true, —
The veil of song, by Truth's own fingers given,
Inwoven of sunshine and the morning dew."

1701



LOTTE.

N the latter part of the year 1773 Goethe wrote "The Sorrows of Werther," of which Lotte is the heroine. This novel is so bound up with the life of its author, that his history at this epoch is the record of the materials from which it was created. It was a period of deep unrest in Europe, — the travail of the French Revolution.

In Germany the spirit of the revolution issued from the study and the lecture-hall. Authority was everywhere attacked, because everywhere it had shown itself feeble or treacherous. It was a sceptical era, in which every thing established came into question. "The Sorrows of Werther" was the expression of the temper of the times.

The original of Lotte, the heroine, was Charlotte Buff, who, although only sixteen, was betrothed to Kestner, secretary to the Hanoverian legation. Kestner was a quiet, cultivated man, possessing a magnanimity and dignity which are not represented in the Albert of the novel. Charlotte (or Lotte) Buff was not the sentimental girl described by Werther, but a serene, joyous, open-hearted German maiden. Her mother had died two years before, and the care of the house and children devolved upon her.

Kestner, her *fiancé*, speaks of her in a letter to a friend as "not strictly a brilliant beauty; but she is, notwithstanding, the fascinating maiden who might have hosts of admirers. But she knows how to convince them quickly that their only safety must be sought in flight or in friendship."

Goethe was a constant visitor at Lotte's house; and here his arrival was a jubilee to the children, who seized hold of him, and forced him to tell them stories.

Another character in "Werther" is taken from a youth named Jerusalem, who was a friend of Kestner and of Goethe. He was of a melancholy disposition, and often defended suicide on speculative grounds.

Men of all classes were moved by this work. During Goethe's interview with Napoleon in 1808, when the former was sixty years of age, the conversation turned on "The Sorrows of Werther." Napoleon had read it seven times, and had taken it with him to Egypt. The romance penetrated into China, and Charlotte and Werther were modelled in porcelain.

"That nameless unrest," says Carlyle, "that high, sad, longing discontent, which was agitating every bosom, had a voice in Goethe. With the creative gift which belonged to him as a poet he made himself the spokesman of his generation."

Kaulbach has given us the picture of Lotte as seen by Werther on the evening when he first met her at her own house. There was to be a little dance in the country; and it was agreed that Werther should take a carriage, and, with his partner and her aunt, should call upon Charlotte, and take her to the ball.

When they reached the house, a maid requested them to wait a moment for her mistress. Werther was conducted up stairs; and, as he entered the apartment, he saw "six children, the eldest of whom was but eleven years old, all jumping round a young woman, very elegantly shaped, and dressed in a plain white gown with pink ribbons. She had a brown loaf in her hand, and was cutting slices of bread and butter, which she distributed in a graceful and affectionate manner to the children. 'I beg pardon,' she said, 'for having given you the trouble to come up, and am sorry to make the ladies wait; but dressing and some family business made me forget to give my children their little meal, and they are unwilling to receive it from any one else.'"





LILI.



LILI'S PARK" was written in 1775, at the time when Goethe was in love with Anna Elizabeth Schönemann, immortalized as Lili, the daughter of a great banker in Frankfort, who lived in the splendid style of merchant-princes. She was then only sixteen, graceful and charming, but was confessedly a coquette. She frankly told Goethe that she had been wont to amuse herself with making captives without caring for them, and meant to play the same game with him; and the Frankfort fair supplied her admirer with abundant proof that what Lili had told of her coquetry was true.

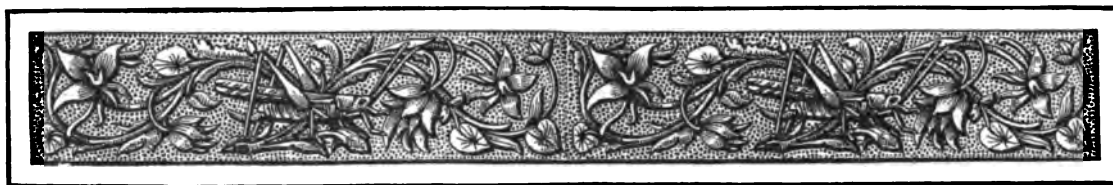
The conception of the little poem "Lili's Park or Menagerie" is singularly happy.

Lili is represented, basket in hand, feeding her four-footed and feathered favorites, amongst whom the author figures as a bear, manifesting his presence by an occasional whine or suppressed growl. When she has distributed the contents of her basket, he draws near, crouching. She places her pretty foot upon his neck with a caressing action: he leans his head against her knee; and, in days of favor, she rubs his lips with a drop or two of an intoxicating balsam sweeter than any honey. This entrances him; but on the instant she is gone. More than once she leaves the door of his den half open, and waits mockingly to see if he will escape. He vows to fly, adjures the gods to aid him, stretches his limbs for the decisive effort, and hugs his chain. Goethe, at this period, bore the *sobriquet* of "Bear" among his friends, on account of his wild disdain of conventionalities.

There's no menagerie, I trow,
So varied as my Lili's now :
The strangest beasts she keeps therein, —
Heaven knows how she procured them all ! —
The wild, the tame, the thick, the thin,
The great, the middling, and the small.
Oh, how they strut, and swagger madly,
And flap their close-clipped wings in vain !
Poor princes ! metamorphosed sadly,
And doomed to love's eternal pain.

Who is the fairy? who the Circe?
Is it Lili? Ask not me,
But be thankful for the mercy
If she is not known to thee.
What a gabbling ! what a squeaking !
At the door she takes her stand,
With her basket in her hand.
Then the herd comes, wildly shrieking :
Trees and bushes, they are bending
With the weight of songsters sweet.
Such devotion ! 'tis amazing !
Saw ye ever such a rout?
E'en the fishes in the basin
Bob their stupid noses out !
Then her daily dole she scatters
With a look that might insnare
Jove or Hermes, were they there.

.
And what has this enchantress done?
A great wild bear, unlicked and rude,
She lured from out his native wood,
And made him more in unison
With other beasts that tamer be,
(Up to a certain point, d'ye see?)
For slightly savage still was he."



IPHIGENIA.



HE artist has here represented that scene in the third act of Goethe's wonderful poem, "Iphigenia in Tauris," in which the priestess of Diana endeavors to allay the agony of her Fury-haunted brother by disclosing that she is his sister, the Iphigenia whom he has mourned as dead.

Orestes. Thy presence, maiden, can but chase aside
The direful brood, not banish them forever :
They venture not with impious brazen foot
To tread the hallowed ground of this thy grove ;
Yet at a distance here and there I hear
Their hellish laughter terrible.

Iphigenia. Oh, let the breath of pure affection cool
Thy bosom's raging fire !

Orestes. And who art thou, whose voice thus fearfully
Stirreth my bosom in its inmost depths ?

Iphigenia. The voice within thine inmost heart declares it :
Orestes, it is I, — Iphigenia !
I live !

Orestes. Thou !

Iphigenia. My brother !

Orestes. Stand back ! Begone !

I tell thee, touch not these accursed locks !
As from Creusa's bridal robe, a flame
Of inextinguishable fire proceeds
From me.

Iphigenia.

21

Iphigenia. Peace, brother! Know thy sister, found again!

She is here, —

Thy long-lost sister. From before the altar
The goddess snatched, kindly saving me;
To her own sanctuary hither brought.
Thou art a prisoner, to the altar doomed,
And findest in the priestess thine own sister.

Orestes. Well, priestess, I will follow to the altar;
For fratricide is our ancestral custom,
From age to age descended. Rise up, reluctant ghost!
With serried front advance on me, ye Furies!
The loving sister to this cursèd deed
Is forced. Weep not: the guilt rests not on thee.
Nought have I cherished from my earliest years
As I could cherish thee, dear sister, now.
Ay, swing the steel; spare not the stroke;
Tear now this bosom, and let flow
The seething streams of fury there enclosed!

[*He sinks exhausted.*]





GRETCHEN.



GRETCHEN, or Margaret, is the heroine of Goethe's "Faust."

It was at Strasburg, in 1771, that the poet conceived the idea of fusing his personal experience into the mould of the old Faust legend. As early as the year 1774 we find him reading the first scenes of this poem to Klopstock, during the visit of the latter to Frankfort. From that period it was resumed at intervals till the year 1790, when it appeared before the public in the form of "A Fragment." This fragment Schiller likened to the torso of Hercules, "manifesting a vigor and exuberance which betrayed unmistakably the hand of the great master."

It was not until the year 1806, after the poem had been brooded over in the poet's mind for upwards of thirty years, that the first part of "Faust" was published in its present form. Its popularity has been almost unexampled. It appeals to all minds with irresistible fascination. Those who are striving to solve the solemn riddles of life regard "Faust" as a masterpiece.

Kaulbach represents Gretchen as just entering the church, instead of returning from it, as the poem describes her, when Faust sees her for the first time, and stands enraptured at the vision of beauty and innocence.







GRETCHEN (MATER DOLOROSA).



BEFORE Michel Angelo's group of the "Pieta" Margaret bows down in agony of remorse, and calls upon the Virgin, the Mother of Sorrows, for help:

"Incline, O Maiden,
Thou sorrow-laden,
Thy gracious countenance upon my pain!
The sword Thy heart in,
With anguish smarting,
Thou lookest up to where Thy Son is slain.
Thou seest the Father:
Thy sad sighs gather,
And bear aloft Thy sorrow and His pain!

Ah, past guessing,
Beyond expressing,
The pangs that wring my flesh and bone!
Why this anxious heart so burneth,
Why it trembleth, why it yearneth,
Knowest Thou, and Thou alone.
Where'er I go, what sorrow,
What woe, what woe and sorrow,
Within my bosom aches!
Alone, and, ah! unsleeping,
I'm weeping, weeping, weeping:
The heart within me breaks.

Help! rescue me from death and stain!
O Maiden,
Thou sorrow-laden,
Incline Thy countenance upon my pain!"





HELENA.



HELENA is the heroine of the second part of "Faust." The third act is known in Germany as "The Helena," and it was originally published as a separate poem.

"This interlude is another allegory, complete in itself, and only lightly attached to the course of the drama. Its leading motive is the reconciliation of the Classic and Romantic elements in art and literature, and the act closes with a transmigration of 'the fair humanities of old religion' into the spirit and sentiment of modern poetry."

Kaulbach has depicted Helena embracing Faust, while Euphorion, with the lyre, is springing upward. Phorkyas (Mephistopheles) leers from the background.

Within these caverns, in the grottos and the arbors,
Screen and shelter have been lent, as unto twain idyllic lovers,
To our lord and to our lady. . . .
As I look, a boy is leaping from the mother's lap to father's,
From the father to the mother: the caressing and the dandling,
Teasing pranks of silly fondness, cry of sport, and shout of rapture,
They alternate deafen me.
He, a genius, naked, wingless, like a faun without the beasthood,
Leaps upon the solid pavement; yet the pavement, now re-acting,
Sends him flying high in air, and, at the second bound or third, he
Seems to graze the vaulted roof.
Cries, disquieted, the mother: "Leap repeatedly at pleasure:
But beware of flying! for prohibited is flight to thee."
And thus warns the faithful father: "Dwells in earth the force elastic
Which thee upwards thus impelleth? touch but with thy toe the surface,
Like the son of Earth, Antæus, straightway art thou strong again."





DOROTHEA AND THE EMIGRANTS.



DOROTHEA AND THE EMIGRANTS" is a scene taken by Kaulbach from the most perfect of Goethe's poems, "Hermann and Dorothea."

The epoch is that of the French Revolution. The scene is laid in a small town on the right bank of the Rhine. A body of refugees from the left bank, flying from the French republicans, are passing near the town, on their way to the interior. Every one is crowding to see the sad procession of emigrants passing through the streets of a quiet little village in the dusty heat of the noonday.

Hermann, the son of the wealthy landlord of the Golden Lion, is sent by his parents with a bundle of clothing and some food for the exiles. He overtakes a wagon drawn by two stout oxen driven by Dorothea, and thus describes the meeting:—

"When to the new road I came, a wagon I saw of stout timber,
Drawn by two oxen of outlandish breed of the finest and strongest;
But at their side was walking with vigorous footsteps a maiden,
Who, with a staff in her hand, was guiding the powerful creatures,
Urging them on, or restraining: skilful was she as a driver.
But, when the maiden espied me, she quietly drew near my horses,
And thus addressed me: 'Not always so laden with sorrow have we been
As on this day on the highway you see us; nor have I thus been
Wont of the stranger to ask for a favor he often refuses,
Often unwillingly gives, and gives to get rid of the asker.
Yet does necessity urge me to speak; for unhappily here lies

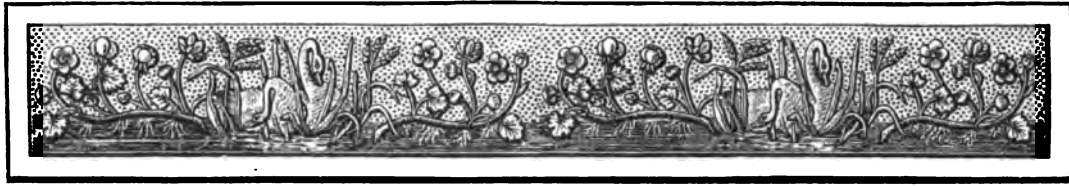


Now, but lately confined, the wife of our wealthy possessor.
Scarcely it lay in my power to carry her off in this wagon :
Slow do we follow the rest, and I fear me her life is not safe yet.
Naked the new-born babe now lies in her bosom infolded.
If you belong to this neighborhood, could you procure for us linen,
Even the worn-out and cast-off ? If so, pray give it the needy.'
Thus did she speak ; when, languidly raising herself on the straw couch,
Turned the new mother her pale face towards me. I answered them straightly,
'Surely the thoughts of the good are sometimes suggested by angels,
So that they're led to provide for the wants of the needy they know not.
Thus did my mother, in forethought of sorrows which now do afflict you,
Give me a bundle of garments from which I might cover the naked.'
Joyfully then did she thank me, and said, 'The wealthy believe not
In the existence of miracles now ; but in trouble perceive we
God's hand and finger still guiding good men unto merciful doings.'"

Having intrusted the remainder of his provisions and clothing to Dorothea to be distributed among her fellow-sufferers, Hermann drives back "so thoughtful and pensive, and so prone to seclusion," that his mother, with true feminine instinct, divines his state of feeling, and, on his declaring that he could never be happy without Dorothea, undertakes to plead his cause with his father.

The father, bent on a rich marriage for his son, is angry and unreasonable at the threatened disappointment of his hopes : but the mother is supported by two steady frequenters of the house, — the parson and the apothecary ; and at length it is agreed that these two shall accompany Hermann to the place where Dorothea is living, and report upon the fitness of his choice. What they hear of Dorothea is more than enough to exalt her into a heroine. She combines courage, and presence of mind, with every feminine quality desirable in a wife.





HERMANN AND DOROTHEA.



HERMANN, having obtained the consent of his father and mother to bring home Dorothea as his bride, seeks her, and urges her to find a shelter under his father's roof.

Unluckily, Dorothea is still in mourning for a betrothed, and wears a ring, the token of the tie. This embarrasses Hermann to such an extent, that, when he is beginning to explain his intentions, she fancies he wishes her to become his parents' hand-maiden, and diffidence prevents him from undeceiving her. Thinking she cannot do better, under the circumstances, she at once expresses her willingness to accompany him to his mother's house in that capacity. The consequence is, that when the party return, and the parents, on the report of their friends, are prepared to receive her as a daughter-in-law, they are all at cross-purposes till an explanation is brought about; when Dorothea confesses to a reciprocal interest in Hermann from their first meeting. Their marriage soon follows this mutual disclosure.

As Dorothea approaches Hermann's home, she asks how she shall henceforth treat

"Thee, the only son, and hereafter to rule as my master?"

Hermann replied, as he grasped the hand of the maiden, —

"Let thine own heart be the prompter, and follow its impulse in all things."

Further he ventured to speak not, much as the time was propitious,

Fearing to hasten a No.



Over the cornfields they pursue their way through the luxuriant grain, enjoying the brightness of evening, until they enter into the shadow of the vineyard, where, not knowing the path, her foot slips; and she would have fallen, had not Hermann's outstretched arm upheld her. Thus they remain for one brief moment, the lover merely supporting her, and not daring to press her fondly to him. It is this moment that Kaulbach has chosen for his picture.





ADELHEID.



DELHEID is the heroine of Goethe's historical drama, "Götz von Berlichingen," which appeared in 1773.

Götz von Berlichingen was a German noble who lived in the sixteenth century, during the reign of Maximilian the First. He was a zealous champion for the privileges of the free knights, and was repeatedly laid under the ban of the empire for the feuds in which he was engaged, from which he was only released in consequence of high reputation for gallantry and generosity. With his fellow-barons he waged continual war. Against the Bishop of Bamberg especially, he was frequently in arms. The persecuted looked for protection to his strong arm, as he was always found on the side of the weak.

This bold, chivalrous robber, struggling single-handed against the advancing power of civilization, was a tempting subject for a poet of the eighteenth century. The effect of the drama on the public was instantaneous and startling. "Its bold expression of the spirit of freedom, its defiance of French criticism, and the originality, no less than the power, of the writing, carried it triumphant over Germany. It was pronounced a masterpiece in all the *salons* and in all the beer-houses of that uneasy time. Imitations followed with amazing rapidity; the stage was noisy with a clang of chivalry; and the book-shelves creaked beneath the weight of resuscitated feudal times."

In the drama, Adelheid, a fascinating and unscrupulous beauty, is plotting the destruction of Götz through his friend Adelbert von Weislingen. The artist has illustrated the scene in which the heroine is engaged in a game of chess



with the Bishop of Bamberg. Franz, the lovesick squire, and the Abbot of Fulda, "the wine-butt," look on. While the old bishop is apparently absorbed in the game, Liebtraut, the minstrel, is playing on the lute, and singing the words thus translated by Sir Walter Scott:—

Armed with quiver and bow,
With his torch all aglow,
Young Cupid comes winging his flight;
Courage glows in his eyes
As adown from the skies
He rushes, impatient for flight.

Up, up!
Hark, the bright quiver rings!
Hark, the rustle of wings!
All hail to the delicate sprite!

They welcome the urchin.
Ah, maidens, beware!
He finds every bosom
Unguarded and bare.
In the light of his flambeau
He kindles his darts:
They fondle and hug him,
And press to their hearts.

Adelheid to the Bishop. Your thoughts are not in your game.

Check to the king!

Bishop Bamberg. There is still a way of escape.

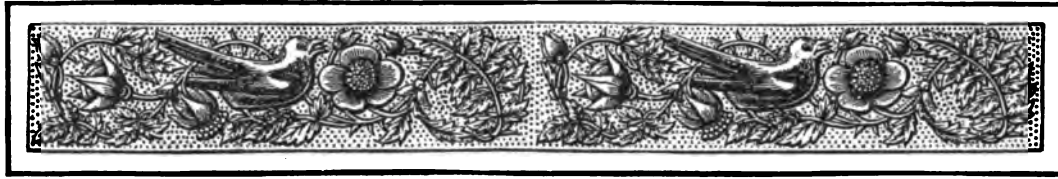
Adelheid. You will not be able to hold out long.

Check to the king!

Liebtraut. Were I a great prince, I would not play this game, and would
forbid it at court and throughout the whole land.

Adelheid. 'Tis indeed a touchstone of the brain.

Checkmate!



LEONORA



OETHE'S dramatic poem, "Torquato Tasso," keeps very close to history. There is a little difficulty in introducing the poet Tasso amongst the personages of a drama. But in this drama we become quite reconciled to the new position in which the poet of the Holy Sepulchre is placed. The characters are historical portraits, — Alphonso, Duke of Ferrara ; Leonora d'Este, sister of the Duke ; Leonora Sanvitale, Countess of Scandiano ; Torquato Tasso ; Antonio Montecatino, secretary of state.

In his twenty-second year Tasso arrived at the brilliant court of Ferrara, at the time when the nuptials of the duke with the emperor's sister were being celebrated with unrivalled splendor. At the conclusion of these festivities he was presented by the Princess Lucretia to her sister Leonora, who was destined to exert such a powerful influence over his future life. He became the honored and cherished inmate of Belriguardo, the palace, where the dukes of Ferrara were accustomed to retire with their most favored courtiers, and where, under the inspiring influences of love, beauty, and court-favor, he completed his "Gerusalemme Liberata."

Alphonso II. was a liberal patron of the arts. The Princess Leonora d'Este and her sister Lucretia, the daughters of Rénée of France, inherited from their mother her mental superiority, and were celebrated for learning as well as beauty. Leonora, Countess of Scandiano, graced the court of Ferrara at this time ; and Tasso addressed to her some of his most beautiful sonnets. His sentiment for her was poetical, and not the genuine, deep, and constant, but hopeless, affection which he entertained for Leonora d'Este.



Kaulbach illustrates that portion of the drama in which Tasso first meets Leonora after her illness. The scene is a garden, adorned with busts of epic poets. The two ladies, Princess Leonora d'Este and Leonora Sanvitale, are discoursing of poetry and poets. The princess crowns the bust of Virgil with flowers, Leonora that of Ariosto with laurel. The conversation turns on Tasso, for whom both profess the highest admiration and regard. They are engaged in playful raillery as to which of them his verses to Leonora are addressed, when they are joined by the duke.

Soon afterwards Tasso appears, bearing a volume bound in parchment,—the manuscript of his great poem,—which he presents to the duke, as belonging to him in every sense. All join in praise and congratulations; and the princess, at a sign from her brother, takes the laurel crown from the bust of Virgil, and places it on the head of Tasso, who kneels to receive it. This scene is one of intoxicating delight to the poet. But he is no sooner crowned than he entreats that the wreath should be removed. It weighs on him; it is a burden, a pressure; it sinks and abashes him.

“Take it away!

Oh, take, ye gods, this glory from my brow!

Hide it again in clouds! Bear it aloft

To heights all unattainable, that still

My whole of life for this great recompense

Be one eternal course!”

Tasso attributes to Leonora's inspiration all that within himself is worthy of fame.

“Whatever in my song doth reach the heart,

And find an echo there, I owe to one,

And one alone. No image undefined

Hovered before my soul, approaching now

In radiant glory, to retire again.

I have myself, with mine own eyes, beheld

The type of every virtue, every grace.

What I have copied thence will aye endure.

These are not shadows by illusion bred:

I know they are eternal; for they are.”



CLÄRCHEN.



N Schiller's critique upon the tragedy of "Egmont," the historian of the fall of the Netherlands does ample justice to Goethe's admirable delineation of the age and country in which the drama is laid. "The characters of the drama," says Schiller, "are delineated with a few masterly strokes. The Duke of Alva is a firm, rigid, inaccessible character. The subtle, taciturn Orange, with comprehensive and all-combining mind, is depicted in a single scene. . . . The few scenes in which the citizens of Brussels are introduced appear to us to be the result of profound study; and it would be difficult to find in so few words a more admirable historical monument of the Netherlands of the sixteenth century."

Count Egmont, as the commander of the cavalry at the battles of St. Quentin and Gravelines, rendered signal aid to Philip II. These two splendid victories gave Egmont great renown and popularity. He afterwards became closely associated with William of Orange.

The Prince of Orange warns Egmont that they are both of them marked men; that, if they wait Alva's arrival in the country, they are lost. But Egmont is equally deaf to the warnings and entreaties of his friend. Clara, the heroine of Goethe's tragedy, is the daughter of a citizen, and the betrothed of Egmont.

In the third act she sends to inquire the meaning of a disturbance in the street, and exclaims, —

"Have you not noticed how often I go to the window? how I listen to every noise at the door? Though I know that he will not come before night, yet, from the time when I rise in the morning, I keep expecting him every moment. Were I but a page to follow him always to court! Could I but carry his colors to the field!"



The street tumult is appeased by Egmont, who promises the populace that all their wrongs shall be redressed if they remain quiet. Egmont is summoned to a conference with Alva, who, after making the requisite preparations for his arrest, stands anxiously watching for his arrival, and, perceiving his approach, exclaims, —

“’Tis he! — Egmont! Did the steed bear thee hither so lightly, and started not at the scent of blood, and at the spirit of the naked sword which receives thee at the gate? Dismount! So art thou now with one foot in the grave! and — so with both!”

On hearing of Egmont’s arrest and inevitable doom, Clara rushes wildly into the market-place, and passionately appeals to the people to rise and rescue him.

Clara. Hark ye, friends, neighbors! We must not waste a moment! The reckless tyranny that dares to fetter him already draws the dagger for his murder. O my friends! I fear this night. Come, let us divide; let us run quickly from quarter to quarter, and call the citizens. How can a handful of slaves withstand us?

Citizen. Name not the name! ’tis deadly.

Clara. Not name his name! How, not Egmont’s name! Where does it not stand written? In the stars I often read it. Not name it! What means this? Friends, good, dear neighbors, you dream: bethink yourselves. Nay, bend not those fixed and anxious looks on me; do not cast around those timid glances. Is not my voice the voice of your own hearts? Who in this fearful night, before pressing his sleepless couch, will not throw himself upon his knees, and in earnest prayer intercede for him with Heaven? Let each one ask himself, and who will not cry with me, “Egmont’s freedom, or death”?

Citizen. God help us!

Clara. Stay, stay! Do not hurry away at the sound of his name whom you once pressed forward so earnestly to meet! When the cry was, “Egmont is coming! he comes from Ghent!” then you held up your children at the door-sills, and pointed him out to them: “See, that’s Egmont!” “That’s he!” You must hear me, and you will. Can you live, will you live, if he perish? With his breath flees the last aspiration of liberty. I have not strength like you; but I have courage. Come, I will lead you on!

Citizen. Take her away! I deeply pity her.

Driven to despair by the hopelessness of her attempt to rescue Egmont, Clärchen takes poison, and dies.



OTTILIE.

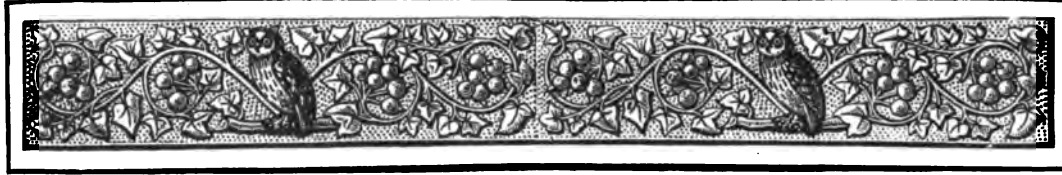


HE novel, "Elective Affinities," is a tragedy in which is represented the collision of passion and duty. Of this work Goethe says, "No one can fail to recognize in it a deep, passionate wound, which shrinks from being closed by healing, — a heart which dreads to be cured. . . . In it, as in a burial-urn, I have deposited with deep emotion many a sad experience."

Ottilie is the adopted daughter of Charlotte and Eduard. After she is taken from school to live with them, the elective affinities of their natures draw Eduard and Ottilie together. They love vehemently, and as thoughtlessly as two children. Eduard is impatient for a divorce, that he may marry Ottilie; but Charlotte, on account of her child, refuses consent.

Ottilie devotes herself with intense affection to Charlotte's child. But a tragical scene takes place, as, after an agitating interview with Eduard, she endeavors to cross the lake with the boy. She seizes the oar, and pushes off from the land. With the child on her left arm, the book she had been reading when interrupted by Eduard in her left hand, and the oar in her right, she stumbles and falls. The boat lurches, and the oar escapes from her grasp. While striving to regain it, child and book fall into the water. When she at last succeeds in rescuing the child, its eyes are closed; it has ceased to breathe. The boat has drifted to the middle of the lake; the oar is floating far away: no one is to be seen on shore. Alone on the water, she strives to bring back life to the child. It is all in vain: in her agony, the remembrance of which will overshadow all her future life, Ottilie resolves to uproot the love which is filling her heart.





ECKART THE TRUSTY.



THE artist here illustrates Goethe's ballad, "Eckart The Trusty."

"How dark it is growing ! I wish we were back !
They are coming, they're here, the hobgoblins, alack !
The band of the sorceress sisters !
See, see, where they come ! If they light on us here,
They'll be certain to drink every drop of the beer
It has cost us such trouble to fetch here."

So saying, the children push on in affright ;
When up from the heath starts a grizzly old wight .
Stop, stop, child ! My children, be quiet !
They are thirsty and hot ; for they come from the chase :
Let them drink what they like, without squall or grimace ;
And the grewsome ones, they will be gracious."

And up come the goblins that moment, and they
Look ghostlike and grewsome, and ghostly and gray ;
Yet the revel and riot is roundly.
The beer it has vanished, the pitchers are bare ;
Then, whooping and hooting away through the air,
O'er hill and dale clatter the weird ones.

Off homeward, all quaking, the children they hied ;
And the kindly old graybeard troops on by their side.
"Do not weep so, and whimper, my darlings."



Eckart the Trusty.

53

"They'll scold us and beat us for this." — "Never fear !
All yet will go famously well with the beer,
If you'll only be mum as young mice, dears.

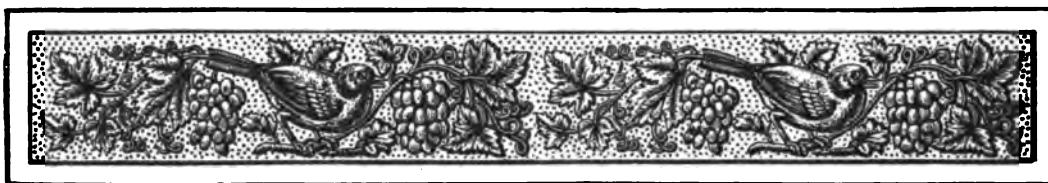
"Mind you follow my bidding ; and surely you may :
I am he who delights with small children to play :
You know me, — Old Eckart the Trusty.
Of that wonderful wight you've heard many a lay,
But never had proof what he is till to-day :
Now you hold in your hands a most rare one."

Arrived at their home, each small child, with a face
Of terror, his pitcher sets down in its place,
And waits to be beaten and scolded.
When the old folks they sip, "Oh, what excellent beer !"
Three, four times they take a strong pull at the cheer ;
Yet still do the pitchers brim over.

The miracle lasted that night and next day ;
And if you should ask, as you very well may,
What became in the end of the pitchers,
The little mice titter, enjoying the joke ;
But at length, sirs, they stammered and stuttered and spoke,
And the pitchers immediately dried up !

And, children, if e'er, looking kindly and true,
An old man or father or master-teach you,
Give heed, and do all that he bids you :
Though to bridle your tongues it may cost you some pain,
Yet to chatter is bad ; to be silent is gain ;
And it makes the beer brim in the pitchers.





MIGNON.

MIGNON, a niece of the Marquis Cipriani, was stolen from her home by a company of rope-dancers, from whom she was purchased by Wilhelm Meister. She appeared to have no distinct remembrance of her family; but on her memory was imprinted a vision of a fair home in Italy, and she yearned to be taken thither by her adopted father and protector.

“ Know ye the land where lemon-flowers blow,
Through the dark foliage steals the orange’s glow,
Where a soft wind plays ’neath the clear blue sky,
Where stand the myrtle and the laurel high?
Know ye that land?

Thither would I
Full fain with thee, O my protector, fly !”

Mignon was placed under the charge of Natalie, a lady belonging to a noble family, who had gathered round her a few children to educate.

On the occasion of the birthday of two of her *protégés*, Natalie induced Mignon to take the part of an angel, and distribute presents. Mignon was dressed in a light flowing drapery of white, with a golden diadem and girdle, and large golden wings. She entered the room, carrying a lily in one hand, and a basket in the other.

The children were at first silent with awe; then they exclaimed, “It is Mignon!” yet dared not venture quite close to the marvellous figure.



"Here are your gifts," she said, handing the basket to the twins. All the children crowded round her, gazed at her, touched her, and finally asked, —

"Art thou an angel?"

"Would that I were!" said Mignon.

"Why dost thou carry a lily?"

"I should be happy if my heart were as pure and open."

"What wings are these? Let us see them."

"They represent far finer ones which are not yet unfolded."

And thus she answered every innocent question with some suggestive words.

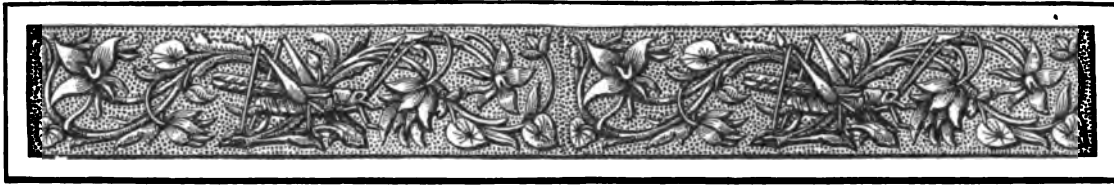
When their curiosity began to be satisfied, she took her cithern, and, seating herself on a high writing-table, sang a little song with touching grace: —

"Such let me seem till such I be;
Take not my snow-white dress away:
Soon from this dusk of earth I flee
Up to the glittering lands of day.

There first a little space I rest,
Then wake so glad to scenes so kind!
In earthly robes no longer dressed,
This band, this girdle, left behind.

Through little life not much I toiled;
Yet anguish long this heart has wrung;
Untimely woe my blossom spoiled:
Make me again forever young!"

The kindness of her guardian and protector, Wilhelm Meister, awakened in Mignon a passionate attachment, under the effect of which she pined away; and her short life closed before Wilhelm Meister had learned to regard her in any other light than that of a tender, loving child.



EUGENIE.

EUGENIE, the heroine of "The Natural Daughter," is about to be presented at court by her father, who is uncle to the king. Her brother, the legitimate son, has resolved on getting rid of her by carrying her stealthily and forcibly to the colonies, at the same time spreading the report that she has met with a fatal accident at a hunt. His secretary is in love with Eugenie's governess, whom he admits into the plot. She is forced to fall in with the nefarious plan in order to save the life of her loved Eugenie, who is wholly without suspicion.

Kaulbach takes for his picture the scene where Eugenie's father has just sent her a casket containing the jewels she is to wear at her presentation. With girlish glee she opens it, and takes out the contents one by one with rapture. In her joy she exclaims to her companion, —

"Irrevocable now my happiness!"

Her friend sadly says aside, —

"Irrevocable, alas, thy fate!"





THE WILD ROSE.



THE artist here illustrates one of Goethe's charming lyrics. These songs are full of life and beauty, and are, by turns, gay, tender, passionate, mournful, and picturesque.

A boy espied, in morning light,
A little rosebud blowing :
'Twas so delicate and bright,
That he came to feast his sight,
And wonder at its growing.
 Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,
 Rosebud brightly blowing !

"I will gather thee," he cried,
"Rosebud brightly blowing !"
"Then I'll sting thee," it replied,
"And you'll quickly start aside,
With the prickle glowing !"
 Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,
 Rosebud brightly blowing !

But he plucked it from the plain,
The rosebud brightly blowing.
It turned and stung him, but in vain :
He regarded not the pain,
Homeward with it going.
 Rosebud, rosebud, rosebud red,
 Rosebud brightly blowing !





DORA.



SCENE in the exquisite idyl of "Alexis and Dora" is here illustrated.


Alexis has loved his neighbor Dora from childhood. Before starting on his first voyage, he goes to bid her farewell. She tells him, that, as he is going to visit foreign lands, he may buy her a necklace, which she will thankfully pay for. While he stands, affecting the merchant, and asking for details of form and weight, his impatient shipmates call to him to hasten his departure. She kindly offers him some fruit from her garden — oranges and figs that she has ranged together, and covered with myrtle — as a parting gift. Alexis has hitherto regarded his love for Dora as altogether hopeless; but her unexpected kindness unseals his lips, and passionate vows are exchanged.







FREDERIKA.

N 1770, Goethe, then twenty years of age, entered Strasburg University.

His friend Weyland had often spoken to him of a clergyman, who, with his wife and two daughters, lived near Sesenheim, a village about sixteen miles from Strasburg. Early in October, Weyland proposed that Goethe should accompany him on a visit to Pastor Brion.

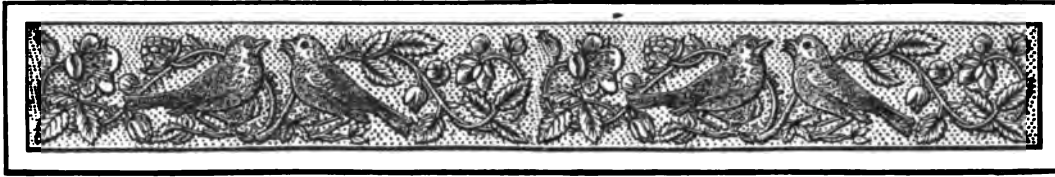
Pastor Brion and his family welcomed them in a friendly manner. One of his daughters was Frederika, whose name is familiar to every lover of German literature. When Goethe first saw her she was only sixteen, and was dressed in the national costume, with its short, white full skirt and furbelow, a tight bodice, and black taffeta apron. Frederika's straw hat hung on her arm, and the beautiful braids of her fair hair drooped on a delicate white neck; while merry blue eyes completed her attractions.

Goethe remained at Sesenheim long enough to return to Strasburg as the accepted lover of Frederika. His gayety and poetic gifts had captivated the whole family.


When Goethe left the university at Strasburg for his father's house at Frankfort, in August, 1771, he felt that his attachment was a boyish love, and would not be lasting. He therefore wrote to Frederika, bidding her adieu; and her answer to his letter was so gentle and forgiving, that it deeply touched him.

They met once again after the lapse of years. Frederika was then happily married, and she affectionately welcomed him as an old friend.





GOETHE IN WEIMAR.

OETHE arrived at the city of Weimar in November, 1775. He was then in the splendor of youth, beauty, and fame. He was received with the most flattering attention by all the principal personages. Eight years younger than the poet, Duke Karl August attached himself to him like a brother. On Goethe's thirtieth birthday, in 1779, recognizing his official services, the duke raised him to the place of *Geheimerath*, or privy councillor. "It is strange and dream-like," Goethe wrote, "that I in my thirtieth year enter the highest place which a German citizen can reach."

For more than fifty years Goethe was the chosen, trusted, appreciated friend of Karl August; and for ten of those years he was the chief minister of the wise young duke, and the virtual administrator of the ducal government, re-organizing some of the most important of its departments, and creating new ones.

During his long residence at Weimar, Goethe was always the centre of attraction in literary and social circles. In the early part of that period, amusement went hand in hand with business. The court delighted in hearing the poet read or act his own dramas. Jean Paul wrote, "There is nothing comparable to Goethe's reading. It is like deep-toned thunder blended with whispering rain-drops."

Among the various plays in which Goethe appeared as actor was his "Iphigenia." The poet took the character of Orestes; Prince Constantine, that of Pylades; Corona Schröter, that of Iphigenia. "Never shall I forget," exclaims a contemporary and admirer of Goethe, "the impression Goethe made as Orestes



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